

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 12-24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1 and 10 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A copper alloy having enhanced resistance to stress relaxation consisting, by weight, essentially of:

from 0.8% to 3% of iron;

from 0.3% to 2% of nickel;

from 0.6% to 1.4% of tin;

from 0.005% to 0.35% of phosphorous;

less than 0.2% of zinc; and

the balance copper and inevitable impurities, said copper alloy having a relief anneal temper retaining at least 70% of a pre-loaded stress following exposure to 150°C for 3000 hours.

2. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 1 wherein said iron is present in an amount of from 1% to 2%.

3. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 2 wherein said iron is present in an amount of from 1% to 1.5%.

4. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 2 wherein said nickel is present in an amount of from 0.5% to 1.3%.

5. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 4 wherein said nickel is present in an amount of from 0.5% to 1%.

6. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 4 wherein said tin is present in an amount of from 0.7% to 1.1%.

7. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 6 wherein said tin is present in an amount of from 0.8% to 1%.

8. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 6 wherein said phosphorous is present in an amount of from 0.01% to 0.1%.

9. (Original) The copper alloy of claim 8 being formed into an electrical connector.

10. (Currently Amended) A The copper alloy of claim 1 consisting, by weight, essentially of:

from 1% to 1.5% of iron;

from 0.5% to 1% of nickel;

from 0.8% to 1% of tin;

from 0.01% to 0.1% of phosphorous;

less than 0.2% of zinc; and

the balance copper and inevitable impurities, said alloy having a yield strength of 70 ksi or higher, an electrical conductivity in excess of 40% IACS and sufficient resistance to stress relaxation that over 75% of an imposed stress remains when exposed to temperatures of up to 150°C for up to 3000 hours.

11. (Previously Amended) The copper alloy of claim 10 formed into an electrical connector.

12. – 24. (Cancelled)